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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 000990

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/29/2029

TAGS: PREL VE

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S FUTURE CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER
MADURO, REQUEST FOR TALKING POINTS

Classified By: CDA JOHN CAULFIELD FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) & (D)

(C) Ambassador Duddy will return to post August 3 after a period of consultations in Washington. The Embassy has requested a meeting with Foreign Minister Maduro which we expect will be granted within days of the Ambassador's arrival. Based on recent public statements by President Chavez and Maduro, we expect topics for the meeting to include Honduras, the US Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with Colombia and US criticism of Venezuela in congressional mandate reports. The Ambassador requests talking points from the Department, especially on the DCA, that he may draw upon in his meeting. Following the meeting with Minister Maduro we expect the Ambassador to encounter the press corps upon departure from the Foreign Ministry. Post requests press guidance on the DCA for the Ambassador to draw upon in the likely event he receives questions on this subject.

CAULFIELD